

## *The Order for the Worship of God*

January 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

*“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* (Revelation 1:5b-6)

Welcome and Announcements (**Please turn your cell phone to “silent” mode. Thank you!**)

Prelude Tim Browning

Call to Worship from Psalm 138

PASTOR: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**ALL: I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart.**

\*Hymn #660 *O God beyond All Praising* words printed on back

Congregational Prayer (to be prayed in unison)

**Gracious God, you are from everlasting to everlasting, the Creator and Ruler of time and space. You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. We confess that deep down we don’t want to admit our need of your mercy. We perform hoping to impress you; religious duties become more important than loving you and others, whose needs we tend to ignore. Have mercy on us and forgive us. You withheld mercy from your Son, punishing him for our iniquities so that you could justly be merciful to us. Dissolve our icy indifference with the blazing truth of your love for us in Christ Jesus. Jesus, you came to serve, not to be served; to live and die for us undeserving rebels. Holy Spirit, keep us mindful of our weakness and sin so that we will boast only in the righteousness of Jesus which by grace has been credited to us. Help us put to death our own schedule, agenda, and wisdom. Remove the scales from our eyes to see and do the good works you have prepared for us. Amen.**

\*Song *Thy Mercy, My God* words printed on back  
(Hymn tune: JOANNA)

Morning Prayers for Christ’s Church and the World John Rowe

Scripture Lesson Matthew 3:13-17

Introduction to the New Testament Gospels Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

## Silent Reflection and Prayer

Who was the greatest prophet in the Old Testament? Perhaps the right answer isn’t what you might think! Although John the Baptist makes his appearance in the New Testament, he is clearly the most important prophet in the Old Testament. Of all the people we meet in the New Testament, the most underrated person is John the Baptist. In the four Gospels, only two even mention the birth of Jesus, but all four discuss the significance of John the Baptist and his ministry. Even secular historians treat John as a national celebrity. So why does John get so much attention? For four hundred years – longer than the United States of America has been in existence – the prophets of God had been silent. Generation after generation passed without anyone hearing the words, “Thus says the Lord.” Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for the priests to preach with any passion or for their words to gain entrance into the hearts of the people? Then came John. He was the first prophet in four centuries to speak God’s Word with divine authority. He brought the prophet Malachi’s words to life: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Malachi 4:5-6). Malachi called this new prophet “Elijah.” And given John’s wardrobe, diet, and lifestyle, he fit the moniker to a “t.” Like many before him, John talked about the Day of the Lord – and boldly declared that Day is here. He used two images to describe the Day: the ax at the root of a tree and the fan in the farmer’s hand. The Day of the Lord would be bad news to God’s enemies, including “good, upstanding citizens” who for generations had ignored their need for sacrifice, contrition, and worship. The most important dimension of John’s calling was bearing witness to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. “Behold!” John exclaimed. “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

**The Lord’s Supper** (we invited all baptized believers who are members in good standing of an evangelical church that teaches that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.)

\*Songbook #21 *In Christ Alone* words printed on back

Benediction

Postlude Tim Browning

\*Congregation Stands. (Please feel free to be seated at any time.)

**WELCOME TO ALL** who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. **PLEASE SIGN, PASS THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTRATION BOOKS DOWN THE AISLE AND THEN PASS IT BACK. USE IT TO GREET ONE ANOTHER BY NAME!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEETS AT 9:45 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Children meet in classroom #3.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN** will start Tuesday, January 20th at 10:00 a.m. It will be a 6 weeks study to learn more about *Who is the Holy Spirit* by Sinclair Ferguson. If you are interested in the study and purchasing *Who is the Holy Spirit Study Guide* (\$10), please sign the sheet on the table in the foyer. For more information contact Joan Pretorius 774-415-6660.

**NURSERY SCHEDULE FOR TODAY – JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>** Rebecca Hagedorn, Lou Vissers; 11<sup>th</sup> BK Decker, Gail Grissom; 18th Nancy Davis, Joan Pretorius; 25th Karen McKee, Kathleen George.

## O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end; we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our King; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

## THY MERCY MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, the joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue; Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here; my sin would reduce me to utter despair; But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive, and He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart, which wonders to feel its own hardness depart; Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground, and weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own, and the covenant love of Thy crucified Son; All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

## IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song. This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fulness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save. Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. For ev'ry sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain; then, bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand; till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

### CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office: (828) 884-3305 Pastor's Mobile: (828) 226-2800

E-mail: [cornerstonep@comporium.net](mailto:cornerstonep@comporium.net) Web Page: [www.cornerstonepcbrevard.com](http://www.cornerstonepcbrevard.com)

Prayer Requests may be sent to: [cornerstonenews@comporium.net](mailto:cornerstonenews@comporium.net)

*...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Christ Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone. Ephesians 2:20*



## °CORNERSTONE°

° PRESBYTERIAN ° CHURCH ° IN ° AMERICA °  
645 BERT LANE ROAD BREVARD, NC 28712

### OUR VISION

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is a vibrant and unified community of Christians and their covenant children whose sole desire is to glorify God in everything. Because God's grace has won our affections we are wholeheartedly committed to the following: the absolute authority of the Bible because it is the very Word of God; enthusiastic and biblical worship; deeds of mercy and sacrificial service; earnest prayer; deepening relationships with one another; and joyful, intentional proclamation of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ to all the world beginning in Brevard. We warmly welcome as members all who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation and fully share our vision.

### OUR MISSION

The mission of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church is to glorify the triune God by exalting Him and by edifying and equipping our members to share the gospel with everyone in both word and deed beginning in Brevard and to the ends of the earth.